

## **REMARKS**

This response is being filed pursuant to the Non-Final Office Action mailed February 17, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks below.

### **1. Status of the Claims**

Claims 3, 6-13, 16-24 and 26-34 are presently pending in this application. Claims 3 was amended in this response. Claims 4-5 were canceled, without prejudice. No new matter was introduced as a result of these amendments.

Claims 5-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### **2. Prior Art Rejections**


Claims 3-4, 8-9, 11, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Johnson* (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,582) in view of *Peters et al.* (US Patent 6,785,768). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested

Independent claim 3 was rewritten to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, claim 3, along with claims 6-9, 11, 13 and 16, which directly and indirectly depend upon claim 3, are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

## **CONCLUSION**

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 6-13, 16-24 and 26-34 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance. If any additional fees are due in connection with this Application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from deposit account number 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. (0112740-638) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,  
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